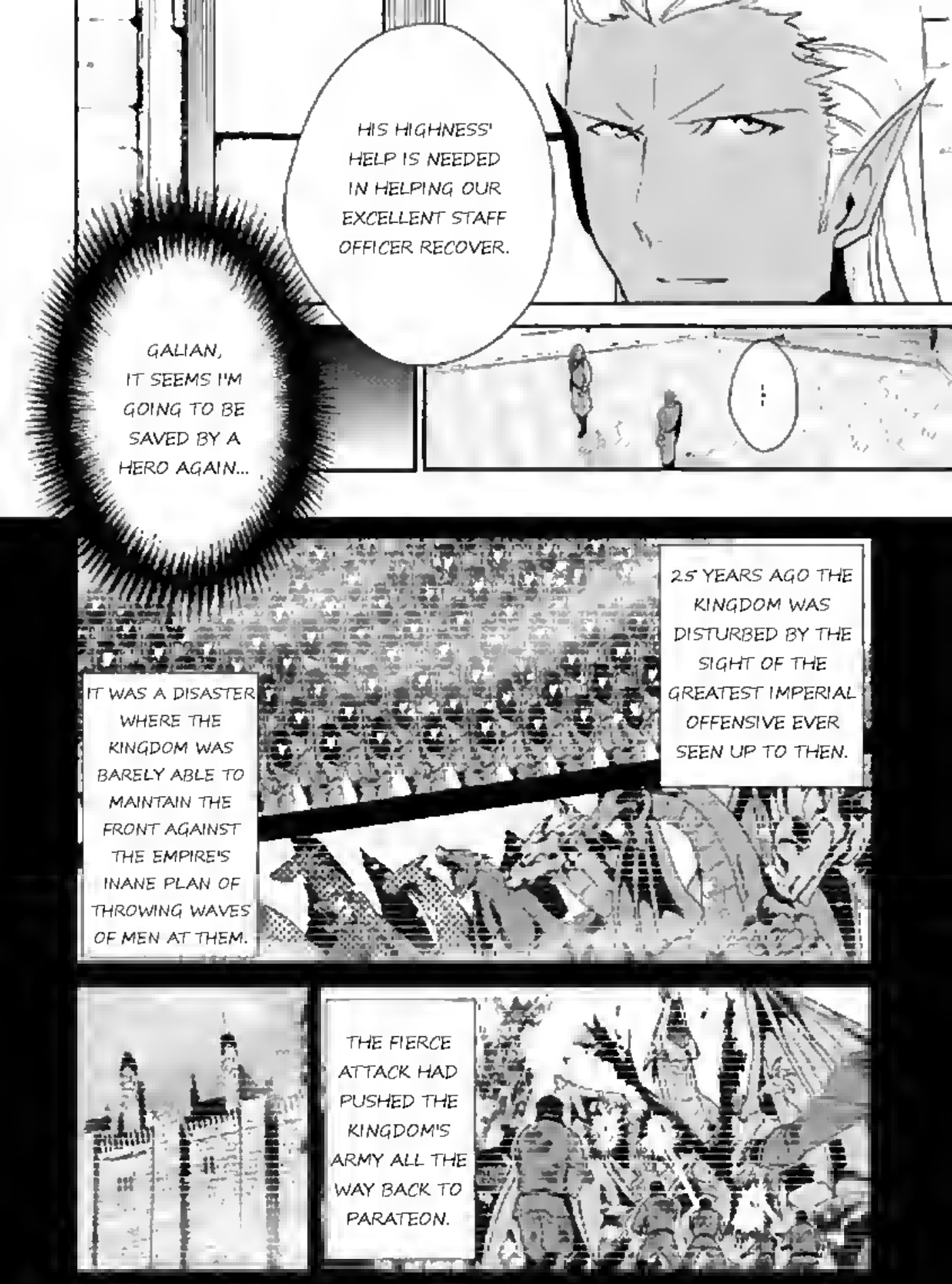
白の皇国物語 第三十八回
原作：白沢戎亥 漫画：本二まーゆ
LIEU-
TENANT
GALAHA,
WHILE
THERE'S GUARDS
WATCHING THEM
FROM A DISTANCE,
IS IT ALRIGHT TO
JUST LEAVE THEM
ALONE TOGETHER?


HIS HIGHNESS' HELP IS NEEDED IN HELPING OUR EXCELLENT STAFF OFFICER RECOVER.
GALIAN, IT SEEMS I'M GOING TO BE SAVED BY A HERO AGAIN...
25 YEARS AGO THE KINGDOM WAS DISTURBED BY THE SIGHT OF THE GREATEST IMPERIAL OFFENSIVE EVER SEEN UP TO THEN.
IT WAS A DISASTER WHERE THE KINGDOM WAS BARELY ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE FRONT AGAINST THE EMPIRE'S INANE PLAN OF THROWING WAVES OF MEN AT THEM.
THE FIERCE ATTACK HAD PUSHED THE KINGDOM'S ARMY ALL THE WAY BACK TO PARATEON.

FACING THE EMPIRE'S OVERWHELMING NUMBERS, THE KINGDOM'S ARMY CHOSE TO CONFINE THEMSELVES IN PARATEON.
SHOCKED BY HOW QUICKLY THE EMPIRE MOVED, ONE UNIT WAS UNABLE TO RETREAT IN TIME AND ABOUT TO BE CAPTURED.
RETREAT TO PARA-TEON!

SEEING SOME HOPE, GALAHA DECIDED TO HAVE STAY BEHIND WITH THE REAR GUARD, WHILE THE REST RETREATED.
THIS TEMPORARY MIXED TASK FORCE WAS LED BY THE THEN LIEUTENANT COLONEL GALAHA. FROM THE START OF THE CONFLICT, NO ONE WAS ABLE TO RESIST THE EMPIRE'S FIERCE ATTACK, AND THESE SOLDIERS WERE THE VETERANS THAT MANAGED TO SURVIVE UNTIL NOW.

EVERYONE, PREPARE TO START MOVING!
YES, SIR!

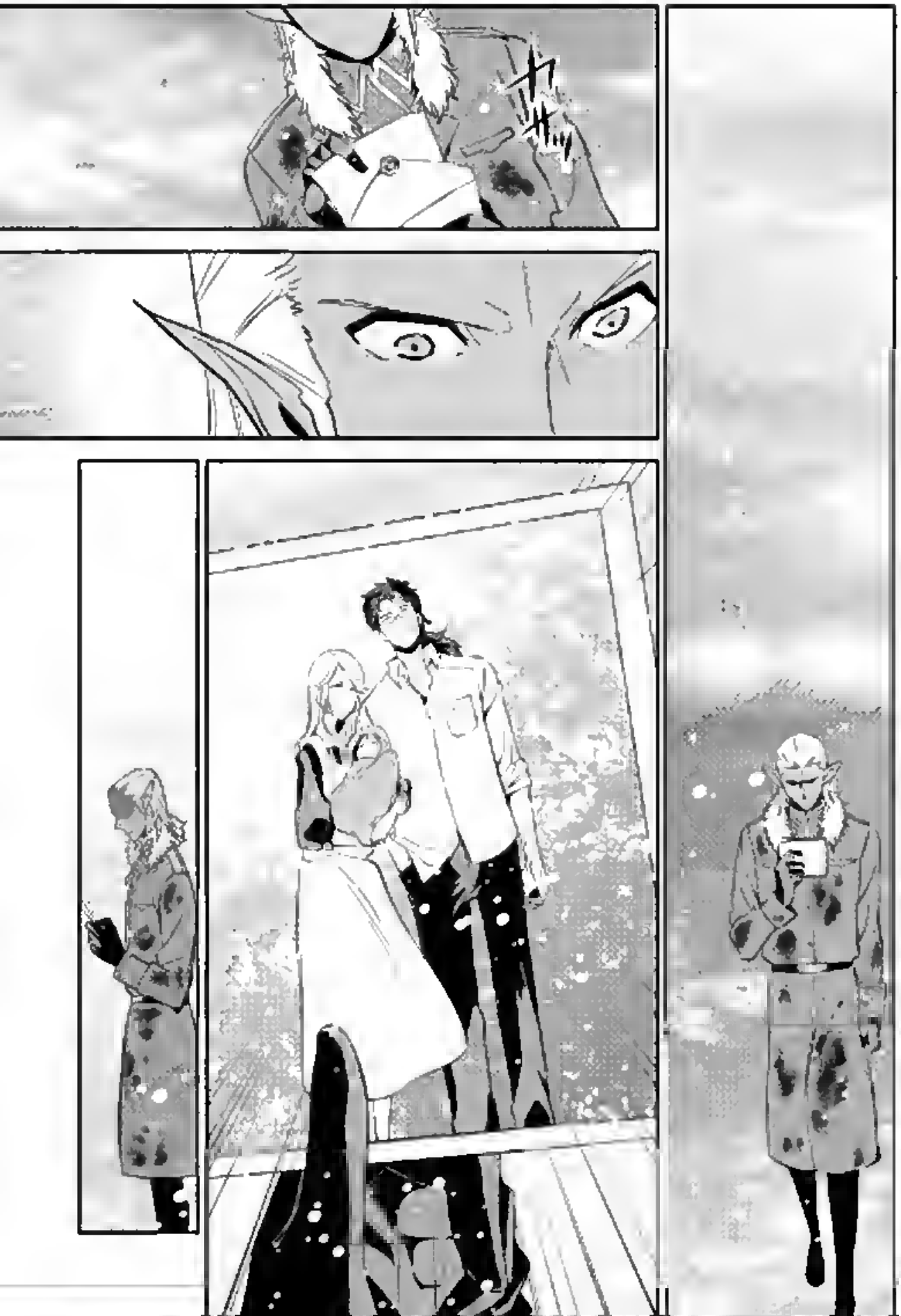
GALAHA,
HEAD TO THE FORTRESS.
HUH?
NO,
I DECIDED ON THIS PLAN, I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO STAY WITH THE REAR GUARD!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SO YOU SHOULD GO.
YOU WILL BE NEEDED IN THE FUTURE,
—っ!!
DON'T YOU HAVE A FAMILY?! DON'T YOU WANT TO PROTECT THEM?!
!!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY.

I CAN'T LET YOU DIE HERE. PLEASE RISE THROUGH THE RANKS AND PROTECT THEM.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ENTRUST MY WIFE AND RIEDE TO.
YOU CAN EASILY RISE TO THE RANK OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OR DIRECTOR-GENERAL!
THEN YOU DO IT! PROTECT THEM YOURSELF!
I BELIEVE...
I'M CERTAIN
THAT YOU CAN CREATE A FUTURE WHERE MY WIFE AND RIEDE CAN LIVE IN PEACE...
THAT YOU WILL RISE HIGHER.

I'LL LEAVE THIS WITH YOU.
WHAT IS THIS?
TAKE IT WITH YOU.
NO!
I WILL!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, GALAHA...
WH-
I WILL STAY BEHIND! GALIAN!

LET GO!
PLEASE UNDERSTAND, THE CAPTAIN TOLD US TO KEEP YOU ALIVE.
...
COMMANDER, PLEASE DON'T LET THE CAPTAIN'S EFFORTS BE IN VAIN.
YOU NOW HAVE TO CARRY ON THE CAPTAIN'S BURDEN AS WELL.
PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS.
WE WILL GO NOW.



WHO YOU WANTED TO BRING HAPPINESS TO...
I WONDER IF YOU, YOUR WIFE, AND YOUR DAUGHTER WILL HATE ME...
THE PEOPLE
TAKE ON YOUR BURDEN.
I SWEAR THAT I WILL

MEMORIAL
NO, THERE'S NO ONE TO OFFER THEM TO...
ARE YOU NOT GOING TO OFFER FLOWERS?
THIS IS THE GRAVE OF THE HERO GALIAN ARDEN, NOT MY FATHER.

DO YOU HATE YOUR FATHER?
NO, I CERTAINLY DON'T HATE MY FATHER.
...
SO DO YOU HATE THIS HERO?
I ALSO HATE THE KINGDOM THAT WOULD RELY ON SOME UNCLEAR "HERO".
I DO.

A COUNTRY IS ITS OWN SHIELD, IT'S PROTECTED BY ITS MILITARY.
CITIZENS ARE CONSCRIPTED AND TURNED INTO SOLDIERS FOR THAT PURPOSE.
DO THE PEOPLE WHO EXPECT A "HERO" TO APPEAR AND LEAD THEM TO VICTORY
EXPECT THE PEOPLE TO JUST OFFER THEMSELVES UP?

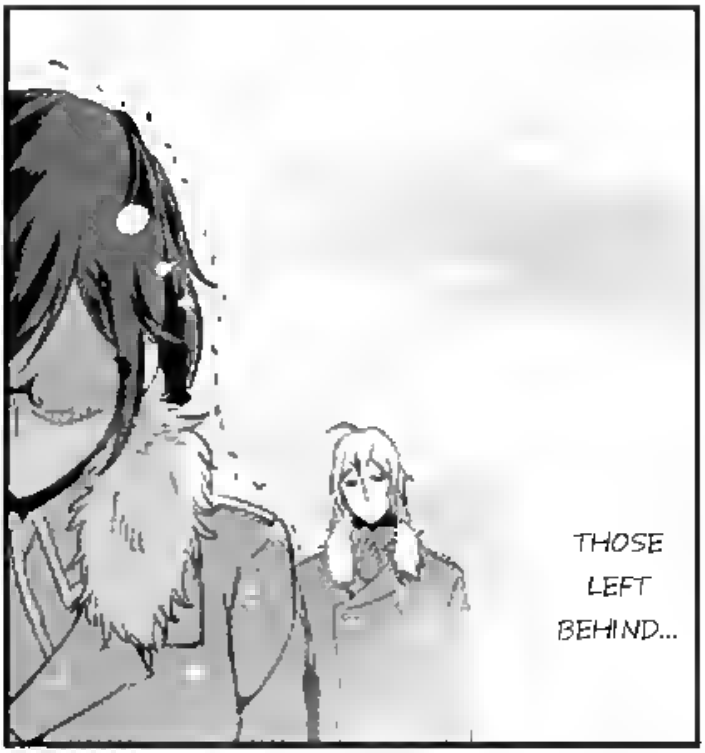
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT A COUNTRY RELYING ON A "HERO" IS THE SIGN OF A RUINED COUNTRY.
THAT'S ENOUGH!
WHICH IS WHY I WORKED HARD TO MAKE SURE-
A COUNTRY THAT SHOULD BE DESTROYED!
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FACE THE PEOPLE WHO DIED FOR THE COUNTRY AFTER THAT!

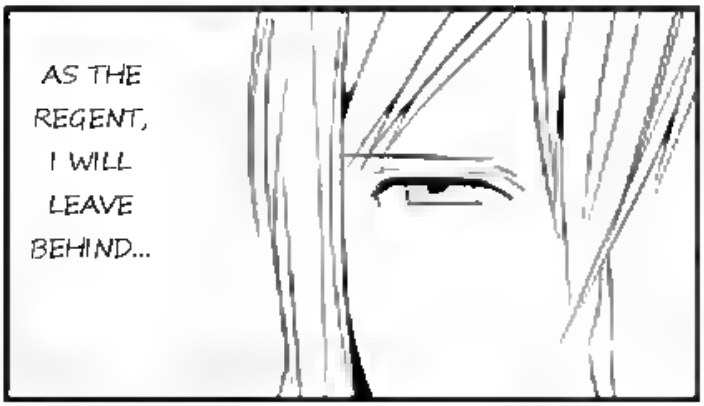
YOUR HIGHNESS, I-
THAT'S HOW YOU HID YOUR TRUE FEELINGS.
YOU USE THOSE WORDS TO HIDE YOUR HATRED OF A FATHER WHO ABANDONED YOUR FAMILY
AND YOUR RESENTMENT TOWARDS THE COUNTRY THAT COMPELLED YOUR FATHER TO DIE.

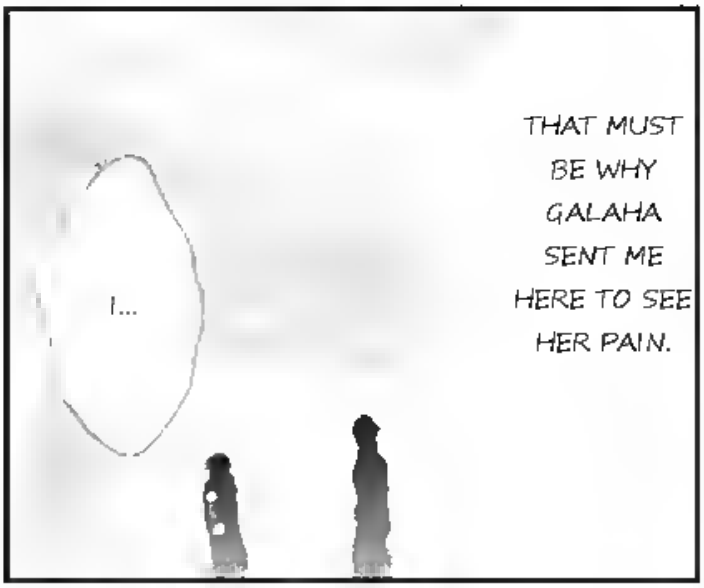
IN THAT CASE,
IT'S FINE, YOU DO HAVE A POINT,
BUT
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE WHO DIED HERE DID SO FOR SUCH A TROUBLESOME REASON.

IS MY FATHER NOT A HERO?
NO...
HE'S A "HERO"... FOR YOU AND YOUR MOTHER.
!

I DON'T KNOW YOUR FATHER, SO I CAN'T BE CERTAIN,
BUT I'M SURE THAT HE-
SHUT UP!
SHE PRAISED HIM AS A HERO IN FRONT OF OTHERS.
AND THEN CRIED WHEN NO ONE WAS LOOKING!
WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT HOW BRAVE OR DARING HE WAS?!
GIVE ME MY FATHER BACK!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
MY MOTHER DIED WHILE CRYING OUT HIS NAME!
I HATE THIS COUNTRY FOR STEALING MY FATHER
AND I HATE THE PEOPLE WHO DANCE FOR THE HERO WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT THE FEELINGS OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND!
WHY...


THOSE LEFT BEHIND...


AS THE REGENT, I WILL LEAVE BEHIND...


I...
THAT MUST BE WHY GALAHA SENT ME HERE TO SEE HER PAIN.

WHY HAVE I BEEN LEFT ALONE HERE?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW MY FATHER! I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HIM!
I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT HIS REAL SELF!
YOUR HIGH-NESS...
YOU ARE A "HERO", JUST LIKE MY FATHER...
AND ONE DAY, YOU'LL LEAVE BEHIND PEOPLE WHO WILL BURDENED WITH SADNESS...

IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THIS KINGDOM AND MYSELF, WHICH WOULD YOU PROTECT?
WH-